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Tamara Alcaraz

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Reissue application of:

James D. RALPH and Stephen TATAR

Patent No.: 5,882,350

Issue Date: March 16, 1999

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

For: POLYAXIAL PEDICLE SCREW
HAVING A THREADED AND TAPERED
COMPRESSION LOCKING
MECHANISM

Examiner: D. Reip

Group Art Unit: 3731

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Patentees respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned reissue patent application. This is a continuation application of currently pending reissue application 09/774,915.